10 April 1987

Soviet Charges U.S. With Bugging

J By BILL KELLER Special to The New York Time

MOSCOW, April 9 — The Soviet, Union struck back today in the embassy bugging dispute, displaying an array of devices described as eavesdropping equipment planted by American agents at Soviet diplomatic missions in the United States.

Soviet officials said in a news conference that they were making the devices public to counter allegations that the new American Embassy building here was so riddled with listening devices that it might have to be demolished. Parts of the news conference were broadcast on the television news.

Some devices seemed identical to devices shown in Soviet press photographs in 1980, when the United States was also accused of having bugged Soviet diplomatic missions.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman, Boris D. Pyadyshev, said the display today was "material evidence of who really intrudes into the sovereign territory of others." Secretary of State George P. Shultz had contended Wednesday that Soviet agents "invaded our sovereign territory."

On Eve of Shultz's Talks

Mr. Pyadyshev said the uproar over embassy security on the eve of Mr. Shultz's talks here next week "plays into the hands of the extremist, militarist right wing in the United States, which has a stake in maintaining tensions and an atmosphere of hostility."

President Reagan said this week that Soviet diplomats would not be allowed to occupy their new working quarters in Washington until he was convinced that the new American embassy building here was secure.

Mr. Pyadyshev said that the Soviet Union was reluctant to mar relations by raising the issue of embassy security, but that the American charges "could not be left unanswered."

While accusing the United States of eavesdropping on Soviet diplomatic missions, he declined to reply directly when asked whether Soviet agents here had engaged in similar activity.

"It is up to each person whether to believe this information," he said.

Some Devices Found Recently

Another official, Ivan N. Miroshkin of the Foreign Ministry's Security Service, said some of the bugging devices had been found at the new Soviet compound in Washington in the last few days, and others had been collected earlier at the consulate in San Francisco, in apartments of Soviet employees of the United Nations, in the trade mission in Washington, and in a country house outside Washington.

Mr. Miroshkin said the devices had been found in window sealant, television antennas, building foundations roof beams, walls and floors. He said security officers had discovered a tunnel with listening devices under the San Francisco consulate.

Some wires and batteries on display bore English markings, and the cover

plate of what was described as a bugged television antenna amplifier bore the name Blonder-Tongue Laboratories, of Old Bridge, N.J.

[At Blonder-Tongue, a man who described himself as a longtime employee said that the company made television reception accessories for the "general market" and that he had "no knowledge of our products being used in bugging devices."]

When Mr. Miroshkin was asked about the relative sophistication of Soviet and American bugging equipment, he smiled and said he would "leave that to the experts."

Mr. Pyadyshev said another news conference will be held Friday at the Soviet Embassy in Washington.